

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed June 17, 2009, Claims 1-12 and 18-24 remain in this application. Claims 1,3 and 18 have been amended. In view of the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

A. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 18, 19 and 22

In the Office Action, Claim 1, 2, 4, 18, 19 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,518,962 ("Kimura"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are allowable

The cited portions of Kimura do not anticipate claim 1 because the cited portions of Kimura do not teach every element of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Kimura do not disclose or suggest, *"means for controlling the at least one drive transistor of each pixel individually in dependence on a respective input signal providing a drive level for the pixel and in dependence on the combined brightness level of the multitude of pixels in the image"*, as recited in claim 1 (Emphasis Added). Instead, the cited portions of Kimura disclose that current measuring equipment 16 measures a driving current which flows from the common electrode driving circuit 13 to a display organic EL device 224 (refer to FIG. 1) provided for in the display region 15. The comparison circuit 21a compares the measured current I_D measured by the current measuring equipment 16 to a predetermined reference current $I_{sub.ref}$. The voltage control circuit 22a adjusts the output voltage (V_{oom}) of the common electrode driving circuit 13 based upon the comparison results in such a manner that the difference between both of the currents decreases. That is, feedback is given to the output voltage V_{oom} from the common electrode driving circuit 13 in such a manner that the measured current I_D comes close to the reference current I_{ref} . As a result, the decrease, as a result of deterioration over time in the organic EL device 224 or the current TFT 223, in the driving current flowing through the organic EL device 224 which is obtained in the case

without feedback is corrected with an increase in the driving current resulting from the increase in the output voltage (V_{om}) of the common electrode driving circuit 13. See Kimura, col. 21, lines 52-57 through col. 22, line 6.

Applicants respectfully note that Kimura teaches a method, as described above, for performing correction for deterioration over time by comparing the current output of a **single organic EL device** with a reference current. That is, Kimura describes correction with respect to a **single display organic EL device 224** and to a **single organic EL device 224 or current TFT 223**. There is no teaching or disclosure in Kimura of comparing the reference current with the combined brightness level of the multitude of pixels in the image, as recited in claim 1.

Applicants further respectfully note that this distinction is true for all of the embodiments described in Kimura, and in particular, the embodiments described with respect to Figs. 3 and 6. These two embodiments differ only in the sense that in the first embodiment (see Kimura, Fig. 3) a common electrode driving circuit 13 supplies a power source signal of a predetermined potential to the common line 133 and an opposing electrode drive circuit 14 supplies a power source signal of a predetermined potential to an opposing electrode, with the organic EL device 224 sandwiched therebetween. See Kimura, col. 21, lines 29-39. While Kimura describes in the second embodiment, (see Fig. 6), that instead of the common electrode driving circuit 13 as shown in FIG. 3, a voltage control circuit 22c may be provided for adjusting the voltage of the signal line driving circuit 12 in such a manner that the measured current I_D compared in the comparison circuit 21a coincides with the reference current I_{ref} . Kimura discloses that This enables the same effect as that of the first embodiment described above to be achieved. See Kimura, col. 23, lines 39-46.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 has been amended herein to better define Applicant's invention over Kimura. Claim 1 now more clearly and precisely recites that the at least one drive transistor of each (individual) pixel is controlled in partial dependence on the combined brightness level of the multitude of pixels in the image. In contrast, Kimura teaches that each individual pixel is controlled in dependence on the brightness level of only

that pixel. In other words, the comparison circuit utilized in each of the embodiments of Kimura compares a reference current to the current of a single pixel. The present invention determines the brightness level of a multitude of pixels in the image by utilizing a field store 36, that is provided for storing the input signals for a complete image. The input signals for a multitude of pixels of the image are summed at the same time in a summing unit 38 to determine the overall brightness of the image. The summing unit thus outputs the combined pixel drive signals for the image stored in the field store 36. Thus, it is shown that Kimura does not teach or suggest, *“means for controlling the at least one drive transistor of each pixel individually in dependence on a respective input signal providing a drive level for the pixel and in dependence on the combined brightness level of the multitude of pixels in the image”*, as recited in claim 1 (Emphasis Added). Hence, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2 and 4 depend from independent Claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 2 and 4 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Claims 18-19 and 22 are allowable

Independent Claim 18 recites similar subject matter as Independent Claim 1 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 1. Hence, for at least the same reasons given for Claims 1, Claim 18 is believed to recite statutory subject matter under 35 USC 102(e).

Claims 19 and 22 depend from independent Claim 28, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 19 and 22 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 18.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103

A. Rejection of Claim 3, 5-7, 20 and 23

The Office has rejected claims 3, 5-7, 20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kimura and US Patent Publication no. 2003/0025718

(“Mori”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 3, 5-7, 20 and 23 are allowable

As explained above, the cited portions of Kimura do not disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 1 and 18 from which claims {3, 5-7} and {20, 23}, depend, respectively. Mori does not disclose each of the elements of claim 1 that are not disclosed by Kimura. For example, the cited portions of Mori fail to disclose or suggest, *“means for controlling the at least one drive transistor of each pixel individually in dependence on a respective input signal providing a drive level for the pixel and in dependence on the combined brightness level of the multitude of pixels in the image”*, as recited in claim 1 (Emphasis Added). Thus, the cited portions of Kimura and Mori, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest, *“means for controlling the at least one drive transistor of each pixel individually in dependence on a respective input signal providing a drive level for the pixel and in dependence on the combined brightness level of the multitude of the pixels in the image”*, as recited in claim 1 (Emphasis Added). Hence, claims 1 and 18 are allowable and claims {3, 5-7} and {20, 23}, are allowable, at least by virtue of their respective dependence from claims 1 and 18.

B. Rejection of Claims 8, 21 and 24

The Office has rejected claims 8, 21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,582,980 (“Feldman”). Applicants respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claims 8, 21 and 24 are allowable

As explained above, the cited portions of Kimura do not disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 1 and 18 from which claims {8} and {21, 24}, depend, respectively. Feldman does not disclose each of the elements of claim 1 that are not disclosed by Kimura. For example, the cited portions of Feldman fail to disclose or suggest, *“means for controlling the at least one drive transistor of each pixel individually in dependence on a respective input*

*signal providing a drive level for the pixel and in dependence on the **combined brightness level of the multitude of pixels in the image***”, as recited in claim 1 (Emphasis Added).

Thus, the cited portions of Kimura and Feldman, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest, “*means for controlling the at least one drive transistor of each pixel individually in dependence on a respective input signal providing a drive level for the pixel and in dependence on the **combined brightness level of the multitude of pixels in the image***”, as recited in claim 1 (Emphasis Added). Hence, claims 1 and 18 are allowable and claims {8} and {21, 24}, are allowable, at least by virtue of their respective dependence from claims 1 and 18.

C. Rejection of Claims 9-12

The Office has rejected claims 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Feldman and further in view of JP 2001-1305511 A (“Hiroykui”). Applicants respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claims 9-12 are allowable

As explained above, the cited portions of Kimura and Mori, alone and in any reasonable combination, do not disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 1 from which claims 9-12 depend. Hiroykui does not disclose each of the elements of claim 1 that are not disclosed by the combination of Kimura and Feldman. For example, the cited portions of Hiroykui fail to disclose or suggest, “*means for controlling the at least one drive transistor of each pixel individually in dependence on a respective input signal providing a drive level for the pixel and in dependence on the **combined brightness level of the multitude of pixels in the image***”, as recited in claim 1 (Emphasis Added).

Thus, the cited portions of Kimura, Feldman and Hiroykui, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest, “*means for controlling the at least one drive transistor of each pixel individually in dependence on a respective input signal providing a drive level for the pixel and in dependence on the **combined brightness level of the multitude***”

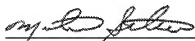
of pixels in the image”, as recited in claim 1 (Emphasis Added). Hence, claim 1 is allowable and claims 9-12 are allowable, at least by virtue of their respective dependence from claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-12 and 18-24 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Mike Belk, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-945-6000.

Respectfully submitted,



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